

Summaries

Collective individualism: The occupational culture of the Rijnsburg flowertraders

by Alex Strating

Rijnsburg, a town of approximately 13,000 inhabitants in the western part of the Netherlands, is to a large extent dependent on the flower (wholesale) trade. Characteristic for the Rijnsburg flower trade is the low level of specialization and the small size of the firms. The article presents an ethnographic account of the flower trade, with a special emphasis on the relations between the economic, social and cultural dimensions. It will be argued that occupational culture and local culture are inextricably intertwined.

'A nice shipload of fish' and other issues: On the work world of Dutch beamtrawl fishermen

by Rob van Ginkel

This article deals with the occupational culture of Texel beamtrawl fishermen and particularly their views on the demise of *mare liberum* and those who were instrumental in restricting access to and exploitation of marine resources, viz. biologists and civil servants. Next, attention is devoted to the knowledge and expertise of skippers. Success is often attributed to their skills and lends them considerable prestige. However, it is argued that success mainly depends upon skipper-crew interactions and that the share system of remuneration and shipboard social organization around a core of kinsmen are important in this respect.

The worlds between kitchen and office: Action orientation of market gardeners in the case of seasonal labour

by Erik de Bakker

Market gardeners who are growing white asparagus have experienced many problems finding seasonal labourers. At first sight the piece-wages that are usually payed for such work seem to indicate that a tension between traditional and modern ways of thinking is part of the problem. This gives rise to the question which types of action orientation are acting in the horticultural sector and also to what extent these types of social and economic orientation are part of an occupational culture (or occupational identities). Although a few cultural features can be observed, the question of the existence of an occupational culture should be chiefly answered negatively.

Home carer: The ugly duckling of the Public Health Service

by Marjolein Morée and Marij Vulto

This article examines the professional project and occupational culture of Dutch home carers. Their occupational culture is based on values like giving care tailored to the individual client's needs and respectful cooperation with the client and informal carers. These values appear to be at odds with the prevailing values in the occupational culture of the acknowledged professions in health care (displaying authority based on exclusive knowledge and occupational distance) and with the common notion of professionalism, which is highly gendered.

When devising strategies for the future home carers face a dilemma: which strategies should they employ if they are to be taken seriously, without endangering their unique contribution to the Public Health Service? Concluded is that the empowerment of care receivers and the changing organisation of health care and welfare offer opportunities for home carers to become the trendsetter of an alternative occupational culture. In this culture respect and cooperation on a more equal footing replace the old values of authority and occupational distance.